

Christmas Draw For Wanderers At Oxford

By "CHILTERN"

Oxford City 3, Wycombe Wanderers 3

WITH both defences in a belated festive mood and giving goals away with gay abandon, a draw was a fair result to this traditional derby in Oxford's mud on Tuesday. After being a goal down in nine minutes Wanderers pulled back to take the lead twice before giving Oxford a deserved share of the points.

But leading marksman Tony Horseman was unlucky to be ruled offside when he took a brilliant chance to net just three minutes from the end.

On the other hand Oxford can count themselves equally unfortunate not to have been awarded a penalty 10 minutes from time when Barry Baker dived onto the ball in his own goalmouth and smothered it until the partially beaten Maskell had time to recover before palming it back to his goalkeeper.

After a dressing room debate left-back Peter Roystone was dropped in favour of Peter Eyres. This was the only change in the side that failed so dismally last week at home to Wallington Avenue.

I have seen Eyres play better than he did on Tuesday. He executed several timely tackles but also ran himself into trouble once or twice.

Oxford are not a good side; Wycombe are off form; and the game never lived up to its first half-promise.

And to add to this the spectacle was dimmed by being played under the worst floodlights I have ever seen.

Oxford startled Wycombe with their early lead which served as a

pick-me-up for their Christmas hangover. It came from the boot of centre-forward Woodley who connected with a good pass from Goodison.

It took Wanderers just five minutes before Les Merrick, who is improving with every game, headed them back on terms. He nodded Bates' cross well wide of Shippey after some good work by Horseman.

Charlie Gale hit a post with a terrific drive from at least 35 yards before Horseman burst through to beat the advancing Shippey to Baker's through pass after a mistake by Shufflebotham.

But five minutes before half-time Morton was allowed to score an equaliser when Beck decided not to bother clearing as the ball rolled across the goalmouth.

Horseman scored his 39th goal of the season in the 58th minute when he thumped home Gale's pass while under pressure. The move started with a long tricky run by Worley.

Bradbury headed a deserved point-saver for Oxford 10 minutes later. Neither side deserved to win.

Wycombe — Maskell; Beck, Eyres; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Worley, Samuels, Bates, Horseman, Merrick.

Oxford — Shippey; Jackson, Pullin; Goodison, Shufflebotham, Lamb; Ramsden, Bradbury, Woodley, Metcalf, Morton.